NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FH
NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-0849 MAY 26, 1976
FRED GALVAN

NEW CLIMATE FOR MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS?

ANNCR:

NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT SUGGEST AN IMPROVED CLIMATE FOR RENEWED MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

VOICE:

ONE SUCH DEVELOPMENT IS THE ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS OF U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL (KURT) WALDHEIM TODAY (WEDNESDAY). AND THE APPARENTLY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARD HIS MISSION. ITS AIM IS TO SEEK SYRIA'S AGREEMENT TO A NEW SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE U.N. OBSERVER FORCE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. AS THE WALDHEIM MISSION ARRIVED, DAMASCUS RADIO INDICATED THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD IT. THE BROADCAST SAID THE DAMASCUS TALKS REFLECT THE CONCERN OF THE PARTICIPANTS FOR A JUST SOLUTION WITHIN A U.N. FRAMEWORK.

SECRETARY WALDHEIM HAS NO PLANS TO VISIT ISRAEL LATER THIS WEEK IN SEARCH OF AGREEMENT THERE, SINCE ISRAEL HAS ALREADY SHOWN ITSELF RECEPTIVE TO AN EXTENSION. THE MANDATE OF THE TWELVE HUNDRED MAN U.N. OBSERVER FORCE EXPIRES THIS SUNDAY. THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST EXTEND THE MANDATE AND ACCORDINGLY HAS SET A MEETING FRIDAY TO HEAR SECRETARY WALDHEIM'S REPORT.

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLY INDICATING A NEW ATMOSPHERE FOR TALKS LEADING TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WAS THE STATEMENT A FEW DAYS AGO BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER (YITZHAK) RABIN IN TEL AVIV. HE TOLD A GROUP OF FARMERS THAT SYRIA'S PRESENT TREND TAKING A MORE MODERATE POSITION MIGHT ENCOURAGE EGYPT IN TURN TO SEEK NEW PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. PRIME MINISTER RABIN ADDED: "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THESE TWO NATIONS WILL AGREE TO

ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AN END TO THE STATE OF WAR. I WOULD SEE IN THIS," HE SAID, "PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT TO COME IN 1976." AND HE SAID THE HELP OF A "THIRD COUNTRY" WOULD BE NEEDED IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

IF BY THIRD COUNTRY HE MEANT THE UNITED STATES, OF COURSE, WASHINGTON THIS WEEK ONCE MORE GAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ITS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN LINE WITH PERTINENT U.N. RESOLUTIONS. IN LONDON, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER EMPHASIZED THAT COMMITMENT IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY). SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE THESE POINTS: THE TIME IS NEARING FOR ALL PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION TO TAKE RISKS FOR PEACE. "WE SHOULD NOT," HE SAID, "LET THE TURMOIL AND FERMENT IN THE AREA, OR THE TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS OBSCURE EITHER WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED OR THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS." AND MISTER KISSINGER SAID THAT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY.

THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING, OF COURSE, WHAT "HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENTS" MISTER KISSINGER HAD IN MIND, SINCE HE DIDN'T SPECIFY. BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE DAMASCUS GOVERNMENT TO THE WALDHEIM MISSION AND THE RABIN STATEMENT EXEMPLIFY WHAT SEEMS TO BE A MORE FLEXIBLE STANCE ON THE PART OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO THE U.N. AND THE U.S. EFFORTS TO STIMULATE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

FFG/RCS